



Project LAUNCH State-Level Update October 2009

Strategic Planning

Progress to Date: The State-level strategic plan has been completed (see attached summary of State-level strategies). Project LAUNCH will focus on addressing three priority areas that emerged during the planning process. These focus areas include: (1) Promoting the Wellness of Children Affected by Incarceration; (2) Developmental Screening; and (3) Coordinated Needs/Assets Assessment and Planning. Workgroups will be formed to address these various focus areas (see attached workgroup descriptions).

Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup

Progress to Date: A number of meetings have been facilitated through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families focused on developing a training agenda for professional service providers and law enforcement. The training will highlight the impact of parental incarceration and involvement in the criminal justice system on children and families, and practical solutions for working with children and families affected by parental incarceration. The training is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010 and will be held in the Phoenix South Mountain community.

Developmental Screening Workgroup

Progress to Date: The first meeting of this workgroup is scheduled for November 2, 2009. We are actively seeking members for this workgroup. Please call Rosalinda Castañeda 602-364-1449 or email castanr@azdhs.gov for additional information and to get involved.

Needs Assessment Coordinating Workgroup

Progress to Date: We are actively seeking members for this workgroup. Please contact Rosalinda Castañeda castanr@azdhs.gov for additional information and to get involved.

LAUNCH Links

The September issue of LAUNCH Links, a monthly e-newsletter from the LAUNCH TA Team at the National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention is available at - http://projectlaunch.promoteprevent.org/html/september_2009.htm.

New Project LAUNCH States

Twelve additional states have been awarded 5-year LAUNCH grants. The program is administered by SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services. The following is a list of the grant awardees:

Oregon Department of Human Services
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Human Services
California Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program
Iowa Department of Public Health
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Michigan Department of Community Health
District of Columbia Department of Health
State of Ohio Department of Health
New York State Council on Children and Families
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Project LAUNCH State-level Program Staff

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Strategic Plan for Arizona's Project LAUNCH
Federal Fiscal Years 2010-2013
Summary of State-level Strategies

1. **PARTNER ENGAGEMENT:** To establish a working group of key state agencies and partner organizations, including representation from the ECCS Coordinating Council
2. **STATE-LOCAL COORDINATION:** To coordinate the work of the Project LAUNCH State Advisory Council with the Tapestry Project Local Advisory Council; address state-level policy issues raised by Tapestry Project
3. **COLLABORATIVE PLANNING APPROACH:** Appoint members of the ECCS Coordinating Council to the Project LAUNCH / Advisory Council
4. **PROVISION OF HOLISTIC CARE THROUGH MEDICAL HOMES:** Address through the inclusion of mental health in medical homes and expansion of medical homes
5. **PROMOTE HEALTHY SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Address through inclusion of mental health in developmental screening and expansion of developmental screenings
6. **ENHANCE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TO HOME-VISITING PROGRAMS:** Address through the inclusion of mental health in home visiting programs and expansion of home visiting
7. **INTEGRATION POLICY:** Address policies that facilitate or create barriers to integration of physical and mental health
8. **COORDINATION OF CARE:** Cross-train physical and mental health providers
9. **INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING WORKGROUP:** Continue to convene agencies engaged in or responsible for developmental screening of children 0-8 and expand representation
10. **IDENTIFY TOOLS, PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATE SCREENING:**
Develop and implement a plan for expanding access to and coordination of developmental screenings
11. **SCREENING POLICY:** Address policies that facilitate or create barriers to provision of comprehensive and coordinated developmental screenings
12. **NEEDS ASSESSMENT COORDINATING WORKGROUP:** Create a central repository of needs/asset assessment data
13. **CROSS-AGENCY ALIGNMENT:** Engage in cross-agency planning
14. **CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS WORKGROUP:** Create policies and support practices that strengthen families and promote the wellness of children with an incarcerated parent(s) and/or other significant persons involved with the criminal justice system



Invitation to Participate

Interagency Developmental Screening Workgroup

November 2, 2009

2pm - 4pm

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 28, 2009

By phone to 602-364-1449

or by Email to castanr@azdhs.gov

Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) would like to extend an invitation to attend an Interagency Developmental Screening Workgroup meeting aimed at developing recommendations to support screening coordination efforts.

About the workgroup -

A variety of developmental screening tools are used by various State and local agencies in Arizona. Anecdotal information suggests that screening and assessment efforts may be duplicated by various providers as a child/family accesses more than one service or system resulting in duplication of screenings and potential lack of follow-through with evaluation and service implementation. Building upon current State efforts, the Interagency Developmental Screening Workgroup will develop and implement a plan for expanding access to and coordination of developmental screenings across the State system. An emphasis will be placed on exploring mechanisms for providing information to families about the availability of services following screening.

The workgroup will:

- Establish expectations and roles;
- Provide leadership for the process;
- Maintain communication channels with the FTF Health/ECCS Committee;
- Develop inventory of developmental screening tools utilized in the State;
- Explore opportunities for coordinating developmental screenings across State agencies;
- Identify significant and feasible priorities and tasks;
- Identify needed policy changes; and
- Develop recommendations and implementation plan.



Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup: This workgroup will convene to better understand the issues affecting children of incarcerated parents, and develop policy recommendations and support practices designed to meet children's needs when a parent or other significant loved one becomes involved in the criminal justice system. The workgroup will explore best practices, programs and policies that impact child wellness and family engagement, including those related to women who give birth while incarcerated. The workgroup will initially focus on developing, or building upon an existing plan, that strengthens family engagement and better supports positive involvement of incarcerated parents and other significant persons, in the lives of their young children. Fundamentally, the efforts of this workgroup will strive to better understand the issues and develop recommendations that strengthen families and promote the health and well-being of young children affected by incarceration. Please contact Veronica Venturini at vventurini@az.gov for more information about the next scheduled meeting.

The workgroup will:

- Establish expectations and roles;
- Provide leadership for the process;
- Maintain communication channels with the FTF Health/ECCS Committee and Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families;
- Explore best practices;
- Identify policies that impact child wellness and family engagement;
- Identify significant and feasible priorities and tasks;
- Work with GOCYF on projects including training for providers regarding children of incarcerated parents, identification of Arizona children with an incarcerated parent(s), and prisoner re-entry;
- Identify needed policy changes and coordinate with the Tapestry Project on policy issues related to children of incarcerated parents; and
- Develop recommendations and action plan to address policies and practices that impact children affected by incarceration.

Needs Assessment Coordinating Workgroup: The central function of this workgroup is to collaboratively plan and coordinate needs/assets assessments and planning activities across State agencies, serving children 0-8 years and their families. The need exists to engage and connect State agencies and other key stakeholder agencies that are charged with and/or engaged in efforts that promote the wellness of children from birth to age 8. Specifically, the State Strategic Planning group noted a need to improve the coordination of early childhood program planning activities in order to reduce duplication of efforts, reduce administrative and planning costs, and enhance cooperation on planning-related tasks (e.g. needs assessments, comprehensive plans, strategy development). Targeted outcomes include a central repository for needs/assets data that is widely known and used by agencies, and linked strategies in plans. The initial meeting for this workgroup is tentatively planned for November 2009.

The workgroup will:

- Establish expectations and roles;
- Provide leadership for the process;
- Maintain communication with the FTF Health/ECCS Committee;
- Obtain high-level agreement to develop a central repository for needs/asset data;
- Convene stakeholders to reach agreement on scope of the data to be shared, identify issues (e.g., confidentiality, data format);
- Prepare a plan to facilitate the collection, and exchange of, existing state-wide needs assessment data;
- Explore existing data sources and candidates for serving as a repository;
- Pilot the process with a group of key (State agency) stakeholders;
- Identify required planning processes and invite partner agency participation; and
- Engage in cross-agency planning.